

# T H E T O W N O F



S6911 State Highway 113 - P.O. Box 115  
Merrimac, WI 53561

## MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 2, 2012

Present were Steve Peetz, Chair, Supervisor Terry Frosch, Supervisor John Gaedke, and Tim McCumber, Town Administrator & Clerk – Treasurer.

Chairman Peetz then called the **TOWN BOARD MEETING** to order. McCumber confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed. The board considered approval of minutes of the town board meeting of December 5, 2012. Motion by Gaedke to approve, second by Frosch. Motion passed. The board reviewed the financial reports and approval of bills. Motion by Peetz to approve, second by Frosch. Motion passed. Under **PUBLIC COMMENT**, Laura Olah, Executive Director for Citizens for Safe Water at Badger (CSWAB), appeared. She gave a report on CSWAB activities for the past month and discussed activity regarding NR-720 regarding soil standards that she says will effect Badger. They are close to contracting a hydro-geologist. The September 2012 rounds of water testing are not available because the lab had technical problems, so they are pressing for more testing. She is meeting with the EPA on January 10<sup>th</sup> concerning the reformulation of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). She is inviting members of the town board to attend future RAB meetings. Under **CORRESPONDENCE**, a letter was received from the EPA agreeing to the reformulation of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) as a result of the town's request for a RAB review and a notice from the WI DNR regarding a Recycling Group Responsible Unit Workshop on January 31, 2012. Under **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**, McCumber reported there may be a February primary election for Wisconsin Supreme Court. All three town board members submitted adequate signatures and will appear on the April ballot. No one else filed papers for town board. Craig Hamilton, town's representative to the RAB proved a written report on the last RAB meeting and gave a brief summary to the town board. There seemed to be a number of issues raised by CSWAB about a number of contaminants that were not addressed by the report of a TAPP consultant because they were regulatory matters not addressed in the report. There was also discussion about residential verses industrial cleanup standards. Under **OLD BUSINESS**, the board considered the possible reinvestment of a Certificate of Deposit which matured last month. Joe LaCour, resident and representative with Edward Jones, presented information regarding two different funds for the town to consider. McCumber noted there are statutory requirements for investing town money and the two funds presented appear to meet those requirements. McCumber added revenue from interest has decreased from \$17k to about \$1.7 k in the past 10 years. The Hancock fund averages about 5%. LaCour also believes the funds meet the statutory. A motion to move \$75k to the John Hancock fund proposed by Peetz, second by Frosch. Motion passed. Under **NEW BUSINESS**, the board considered a presentation to the Town of Caledonia regarding school property taxes. McCumber reported the Caledonia Elementary school was closed by the Portage School District which invited him to discuss a possible charter school with parents. McCumber is also chair of the Merrimac Community Charter School (MCCS) and has been on the school's Governance Council since its inception. McCumber noted MCCS was considered a targeted school for closure due to low attendance and poor test scores that ranked the school last in the district. Then principal Cliff Thompson recommended the charter program. In 2012, the school has 90 children, cut its operational costs from \$15,000 a student to \$7,200 a student and now has the highest test scores in not just the district, but in Lodi, Baraboo, and Portage schools. McCumber reported children from Caledonia attend schools at a cost of \$28k per child based on taxes levied. The average cost for the Caledonia, Merrimac, and the Village of Merrimac, is \$24k while both districts average a cost of \$11k. This tax levy costs over \$1,800 on a \$200k home. McCumber said there are 220 kids living in these communities. At \$12k per kid, a comparable tax levy would be only \$900 on a \$200k home. These numbers have led parents in Caledonia to the discussion of possibly creating our own school district and he will be presenting this information to the Village of Merrimac next month.

Motion to adjourn by Frosch, second by Gaedke. Motion passed.

**Town Officers:** Steve Peetz, Chair, 493-2106; Terry Frosch, Supervisor, 493-2891; John Gaedke, 356-2301; Supervisor, 493-2891; Tim McCumber, Town Administrator and Clerk-Treasurer, 493-2588 (**please, no calls at residence except for emergencies**). Assessor: Steve Mahlik, Equity Appraisal, LLC, 608/826-0009. Email address: [townmerr@merr.com](mailto:townmerr@merr.com). Building permits are required in the Town of Merrimac. Contact Tim McCumber for permits and zoning regulations ([tnadmin@merr.com](mailto:tnadmin@merr.com)). Town website: <http://www.tn.Merrimac.wi.gov>. Special Garbage Collection requests to Peterson Sanitation: 608/524-6603.

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